

Lewis and Clark County Mental Health Local Advisory Council
Intermountain Conference Room
Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 11:30 a.m.

Mission Statement: The purpose of the LAC is to assist in the improvement of Lewis and Clark County public mental health services and to review and make recommendations about Lewis and Clark County's public mental health services to the Lewis and Clark County Commissioners, as well as provide input and recommendations to the State of Montana's Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council (MHOAC) and the State of Montana's Service Area Authority (SAA) serving the community.

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Reading of the Mission Statement

Matt Furlong called the meeting to order, read the mission statement, and led introductions throughout the room.

Members in Attendance: Matt Furlong (Vice Chair), Ray Roberts, Vee Yang, Gary Mihelish, Kim Gardner, Brian Coplin, Andy Hunthausen, Cory Bailey, Michelle Marshal, Emily Munn, and Jess Hegstrom.

Guests in Attendance: Brandy Vail, Alison Munson, Alan Hughes, Shannon Shanholtzer, and Dennis Nyland.

Staff in Attendance: Jocelyn Olsen and Kellie McBride.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A quorum was present. Michelle Marshal noted that her name was not listed in attendance for the January 2019 meeting. With this correction made, minutes from the meetings on October 2, 2018, November 13, 2018, and January 8, 2019 were approved.

3. Updates From Other Mental Health Groups

a. Service Area Authority (SAA)

Matt Furlong stated that SAA's legislative priorities have been the main focus. SB 30 – Medicaid Funding for Peer Support was recently introduced to the House of Representatives. All proponents were able to testify and there was no opposition despite this bill including a large fiscal note. The Western SAA has taken the lead on tracking the various bills of interest. Updates for more bill hearings were given by Gary Mihelish.

b. Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council

Andy Hunthausen shared that the MHOAC participated in the SAA summit. Their next scheduled meeting is February 13, 2019.

c. Lewis and Clark Suicide Prevention Coalition

Jess Hegstrom provided an overview of the presentation given by Deputy Coroner Bryan Backeburg at the most recent LCSPC meeting. The Deputy Coroner spoke to the suicide rate in Lewis and Clark County, explaining that the primary reason for suicide attempts and completions is a change in medications. It was mentioned that there tend to be many warning signs for suicidal ideation but a major barrier in our community is access to mental health care. Backeburg also shared that some of the deaths recorded in the last year were listed as undetermined deaths, meaning it is possible that the suicide rate is higher than reported.

Jess shared that Karl Rosston added to the presentation with the observation that there is a slight decrease in the suicide rate but that it is not necessarily a trend. Overall, Montana still has the highest rate of suicide in the nation.

Jess explained that there are multiple upcoming mental health awareness trainings.

d. Law Enforcement Mental Health Committee

Data presented at the LEMHC was briefly shared by Kim Gardner.

4. Workgroup Reports

a. One – Effectiveness, Accessibility, Quality of Services

No update at this time.

b. Two – Community Outreach

This group has recently discussed avenues for education and outreach to providers. Their current focus is ensuring further distribution of the Mental Health Resource Guide and ensuring 2-1-1 is up to date through United Way.

Group two is requesting more members and asked Ray Roberts and David Roberts about their interest in joining the group.

c. Three – Gaps in Services

This group is split in to three focus groups based on the Mayor's Challenge.

Group one focuses on crisis intercept mapping. They discussed working with the new County Suicide Prevention Coordinator to establish community trainings on mental health and reduce mental health stigma. It was also mentioned that there is an opportunity for more locations of medicine disposal. A member stated that East Helena Police Department would like to be one such site.

Additionally, AMDD is contracting with VISTA to set up a bed board system that would better help providers determine availability in treatment facilities.

Group two focuses on the 2-1-1 system. Alison Munson explained that it is the goal of United Way to have all accurate information posted by the end of this week, a task that has been difficult as few resources have returned the informational forms. Alison explained that there will be a call to community groups each month to go on to the 2-1-1 database to search for any discrepancies. Annually, the 2-1-1 database will be updated via phone calls to all resources. Finally, Alison emphasized the importance of finding all resources, especially the least known, and adding them to the database.

Group three focuses on peer support. This group meets every month and has recently focused on differentiating between licensed and unlicensed peer support to better classify various community agencies utilizing peer supports. It is a major goal to get all peer supports licensed. Kim Gardner also mentioned the need for peer supports in the emergency room of the hospital of which Matt Furlong agreed and stated Montana Peer Network is aware.

5. Public Comment

Kim Gardner announced that Intermountain has expanded their contract with Helena Public Schools to add mental health teams to Kessler Elementary and Ray Bjork. These services will begin in the summer so that children may be introduced to their treatment team prior to the start of school.

Kellie McBride shared that Criminal Justice Services Department hired Jillian DeAmicis-Danesi as their new Behavioral Health Coordinator.

Alison mentioned the Community Health Impact Plan, noting the importance of Intermountain attending and speaking of Michael O'Neil possibly presenting at the next LAC meeting regarding Housing is Healthcare.

Shodair is hoping to move away from the necessity of the Emergency Room in the hospital and begin direct admits to their facility.

6. Next Meeting

March 5, 2019

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm.